

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner rejected claims 160-162, while withdrawing claims 143-159 from consideration. Claims 143-159 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 163-174 have been added. Thus, claims 160-174 are pending.

Claim 160 has been amended herein to its originally presented form. New claims 163-174 depend from amended claim 160. Applicants' specification fully supports these amendments. See, e.g., originally filed claims 27 and 126-129. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In light of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request continued examination of the above-referenced application and allowance of claims 160-174.

### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 160-162 as allegedly being unpatentable over the Nilsen *et al.* reference (U.S. Pat. No. 6,013,447) in view of the Taira *et al.* reference (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0002077) and the Hertzel *et al.* reference (*J. Lipid Res.*, 41: 1082-1086 (2000)).

Applicants respectfully disagree and request withdrawal of these rejections. As demonstrated by the attached Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, Applicants invented the presently claimed subject matter prior to the filing date of the Taira *et al.* reference. Exhibit A, which comprises redacted copies of three notebook pages, corroborates Applicants' earlier invention. For example, pages 1 and 2 of Exhibit A provide diagrams of Applicants' methods for selection of siRNA molecules from an siRNA random library, while page 3 provides diagrams of Applicants' methods for the construction of a short hairpin RNA (shRNA) library and selection of shRNA molecules using GFP. These notebook pages are comparable to published figures 20, 21, 25, and 26 of Applicants' specification (see, e.g., Exhibit B and pages 21-22 of Applicants' specification).

For these reasons and others, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 160-162 under 35 § U.S.C. 103(a).

## **CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that claims 160-174 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if such would expedite prosecution.

A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper was filed with the Patent and Trademark Office using the EFS-WEB system on this date May 5, 2009